

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 L-03 H-01 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 /052 W  
-----073282 131235Z /53

R 130814Z SEP 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5001  
INFO USDOC WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
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AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMOBASSY KHARTOUM 53  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1619

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ETRD, IZ  
SUBJECT: BOYCOTT: INTERVIEW WITH IRAQI MINISTRY OF  
TRADE OFFICIALS

REF: (A) USDOC 15309 (NOTAL), (B) BAGHDAD 1468 (NOTAL),  
(C) STATE 205988 (NOTAL), (D) BAGHDAD 1106.  
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1. COMMERCIAL ATTACHE MET SEPT 8 WITH MINISTRY  
OF TRADE DIRECTOR GENERAL RESPONSIBLE FOR BOYCOTT  
AFFAIRS KHALID RAHMAN AL-DURI AND DIRECTOR OF BOYCOTT  
OFFICE IKBAL MUNIR.

2. AL-DURI DENIED THAT GOI HAD ISSUED DIRECTIVE

SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED IN RECENT WALL STREET JOURNAL, MEED, AND MID-EAST MARKETS ARTICLES THAT THE GOI HAD ORDERED ITS PURCHASING ORGANIZATIONS TO BUY FROM OTHER THAN US SOURCES IF POSSIBLE. HE REPEATED LINE TAKEN EARLIER BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BOYCOTT DIRECTOR HASSAN ABDUL HAMEED THAT SOME GOI PURCHASING ORGANIZATIONS MAY PREFER, HOWEVER, NON-US SOURCING IN ORDER TO AVOID BOYCOTT PROBLEMS. BOYCOTT OFFICE DIRECTOR MUNIR IN REVEALING REMARK AFTER READING MID-EAST MARKETS REPORT SAID, "THE TRUTH IS MIXED."

3. BASED ON INFORMATION IN STATE 205988, COMATT DENIED THAT USDOC HAD CONFIRMED TO MID-EAST MARKETS THE EXISTENCE OF DIRECTIVE DESCRIBED IN ARTICLE.

4. AL-DURI SAID THAT HE HAD NOTHING NEW TO ADD TO COMMENTS HE MADE IN PREVIOUS DISCUSSION WITH COMATT ON BOYCOTT MATTERS (SEE BAGHDAD 1340) AND THAT HE WAS NOW AWAITING US IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS, RESULTS OF DISCUSSIONS OF BOYCOTT TOPICS IN ARAB LEAGUE AND THE DECISIONS OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT. HE CONFIRMED HIS WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS WITH COMATT ON BOYCOTT ISSUES AFTER US IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS ARE ISSUED, BUT SAID THAT PARALLEL DISCUSSIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY BOYCOTT DIRECTOR HASSAN ABDUL HAMEED.  
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4. COMMENT: WE TEND TO BELIEVE AL-DURI AND ABDUL HAMEED'S EXPLANATION THAT NO FORMAL DIRECTIVE AS DESCRIBED IN PRESS HAS BEEN ISSUED BUT THAT NONETHELESS SOME GOI PURCHASING ORGANIZATIONS MAY BE IN EFFECT PRACTICING SUCH A POLICY. MUNIR'S COMMENT THAT "TRUTH IS MIXED" MAY BE REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE RCC RESOLUTION (REPORTED IN BAGHDAD 489) WHICH SAID GOI PURCHASING ORGANIZATIONS MUST ENFORCE IRAQI BOYCOTT REGULATIONS IN ALL TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING US COMPANIES. IN VIEW OF US ANTI-BOYCOTT LAW, A LOGICAL RESPONSE BY IRAQI PURCHASING ORGANIZATIONS TO SUCH A RESOLUTION WOULD BE TO SEEK NON-US SOURCING IF POSSIBLE.  
MACK

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Reference:** 77 BAGHDAD 1468, 77 STATE 205988, 77 BAGHDAD 1106  
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**Review Markings:**  
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